

News Release



For Immediate Release

Date: April 16, 2001

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Crystal Cove Public Workshop Set

Effort for Public Use and Preservation Begins

(Newport Beach) The State Department of Parks and Recreation has officially set the date, time and place for the first of at least two workshops to decide how to restore Crystal Cove's Historic District and open it to full public use. The first workshop will be held April 26, 2001, at 7 p.m., in the multi-purpose room of Lincoln Elementary School, 3101 Pacific View Drive, Corona del Mar, and public participation is invited.

"When State Parks Director Rusty Areias decided to change directions and terminate the private development contract to renovate the historic district, he also said all alternatives would now be on-the-table for consideration," said Orange Coast District State Park Superintendent Mike Tope. "We are now prepared to begin the process of reviewing those alternatives."

"There are a number of different visions out there," said Tope, "and to be successful in finding the right combination of visions, we must build a spirit of cooperation. But most visions share one thing in common – a deep interest in how the historic district is restored and opened to full public use. We intend to listen to all and give equal consideration to all. We have the Crystal Cove General Plan of 1982 as our base document, but beyond that, we have no preconceived opinions as to what the future of Crystal Cove will be. That, we believe, will emerge from the public workshop process."

State Parks acquired the property in 1979 from the Irvine Company. It was designated as Crystal Cove State Park in 1980. In 1996, state parks signed a contract for a private development company to renovate the historic district. That proposal met with overwhelming opposition from the community, and in February of this year, State Parks Director Rusty Areias decided to terminate the contract and pursue a course of public involvement for the future of the historic district.

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California State Parks on the Internet: <<http://www.parks.ca.gov>>

Under the new planning process, a total of two to three public workshops will be held between April and September 2001, to seek public input.

Last month, State Parks announced an agreement with the residents of the park's historic district had been reached, allowing them to remain for one more Fourth of July, but be out by July 8, 2001. "What happens next," said Tope, "is that we will be moving Park Rangers and other personnel into several of the cottages as part of the plan to provide protection to the historic district. Then, we will be welcoming the public to the beach on July 9. We are also beginning the site work addressing the immediate environmental, safety and utility concerns, as mandated by the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board."

The public planning process for the historic district will now address the following:

1. Adaptive uses for the buildings and site that help preserve and interpret the buildings and represent the highest public use.
2. How these adaptive uses could help meet the high costs of building restoration and on-going preservation.
3. What visitor educational and recreational opportunities and support services are needed and appropriate.
4. How the protection of natural values, wildlife, and plant habitats can be coordinated with preserving cultural values and recreational opportunities.

The State Department of Parks and Recreation is now publishing a Crystal Cove Historic District Newsletter which explains the planning process and procedures in greater detail. Those wishing to receive the newsletter and notice about future workshops can contact Alan Tang, at (916) 653-6466. In addition, the newsletter can be found on the State Department of Parks and Recreation web site home page, www.parks.ca.gov. Go to the website, then select: Find a Park, Crystal Cove State Park.

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